

\$243 Million Price Tag Put on City

County Assessor Philip E. Watson this week released preliminary figures on the assessed valuation, giving Torrance a valuation of \$243,038,861, and ranking the city sixth in the county.

City Manager Wade Peebles commented Tuesday afternoon that the assessed valuation compares favorably with the city's estimate. After an adjustment for exemptions, the figure is less than \$500,000 lower than the estimates.

"In dollars, that amounts to practically nothing to us," commented Peebles.

S. E. Waldrip, assistant superintendent of schools for business, didn't feel the same way. "It is about 30 per cent low," said Waldrip. He added that he thought the assessor had "started for Torrance and got lost before he found the city."

The preliminary figures, which must still be equalized by the Board of Supervisors, showed a total increase of about 4 per cent throughout the county. Total county valuation is pegged at \$12,375,011,256 after adjustments for exemptions.

Los Angeles heads the list with a total of \$5,086,028,733. The next five cities were Long Beach, \$607,833,920; Padadena, \$264,180,960; Vernon, \$254,454,860; Burbank, \$251,279,290; and Torrance, \$243,038,861. Not included in the preliminary figures are the public utility figures.

A new plenum wood flooring system to replace concrete slab construction is being developed. Wood floors are much easier on the feet than rock-hard concrete, and less costly as a rule.

Kuchel Sponsors L.A. Basin Bill

Senator Thomas H. Kuchel has introduced a bill in the Senate calling for the Army Engineers to spend \$3.4 million in the Los Angeles area to avoid stoppages of urgent flood control projects.

Kuchel said the stop-gap measure is vital to continue work on seven projects in the flood control district now under way.

Luu and Dance Slated Saturday

The Centinela-Bay Human Relations Committee will sponsor a luau and dance Saturday evening at the Polynesian Restaurant, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 a couple and may be obtained by calling LO 7-2211.

Appointed Judge

Dr. Mary Purcell, associate professor of English at Long Beach State College, has been appointed a judge of the National Council of Teachers of English Achievement Awards, a program which annually recognizes outstanding high school seniors for excellence in English.

... Sit-ins

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such groups could better serve if organized by citizens.

Mills said he was working with a group now seeking to form such a committee to affiliate with the Los Angeles County Human Relations Committee.

Councilmen appeared reluctant to enter the field officially, preferring to let the citizens groups act first.

... Decision Friday

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site. They hasten to add, however, that they won't give up the fight, yet.

Mrs. Watts feels that the decision will be made in favor of Torrance, "if and when logic enters into the picture." She adds, "We are going to work on this to the last ditch."

Nicholas Drale, chairman of the council committee for the college, told The HERALD Tuesday, "Torrance has offered more than any city in California to secure a state college. The Torrance site is more accessible, less expensive to develop, and more centrally located. We have met their own criteria, and if they do what is realistic and right, the college will be in Torrance."

The Rev. Mr. Beadles says that a number of the trustees now feel that Torrance has made offers that cannot be ignored. He referred to the last resolution adopted by the City Council. That resolution added that surrounding land would be zoned for use that is compatible with the college.

The site in question in Torrance comprises three sections at the intersection of Sepulveda and Crenshaw Boulevards. It is owned by the Santa Fe Railroad, the Del Amo Estate Co., and the Standard Oil Co. of California. The land is available for about \$30,000 per acre.

Dr. Glenn S. Dumke, chancellor of the state college system, describes the Torrance site as a "working oil field, across from a tank farm, and split by a major highway." To this, The Rev. Mr. Beadles has replied, "This is where the people of South Bay live—on top a working oil field, across from tank farms, with their cities split by major highways." He adds that these should pose no problems, and serve only as excuses.

Information regarding results of the studies conducted for the report on the Peninsula site has not been made public by the trustees, so much of what is said is speculation. But land acquisition remains the critical problem.

The Ladera Heights Civic Assn., which opposed the choice of Fox Hills Golf Course in March, this week adopted a resolution favoring the Torrance location. Other groups, including the Lomita Chamber of Commerce and several adjoining civic and area-wide groups, have done the same.

"More than 95 per cent of the people in the area to be served favor the Torrance site," says Mayor Isen. "We are hopeful the trustees will accede to the wishes of the people to be served and locate the college where they want it, namely in Torrance."

The current situation boils down something like this:

- Conditions attached to the Peninsula site cannot be met and adequate land is probably not available for a projected full-time student body of 20,000.
- By and large, the attitude of the Peninsula residents favors relocation in the Torrance area.
- Access roads will probably have to be constructed and will involve large expenditures.
- Torrance residents await the college with open arms, but seemingly are standing by while the trustees ram it down the throats of unwilling, if not hostile, residents on the Peninsula.

While these problems confront the board this week, many of the trustees are seriously questioning the advantage of the beauty in the face of other problems.

Torrance supporters say the decision is still unmade—and the city's hope still very much alive.

Peninsula Roads To Be Improved

More than \$1.5 million has been earmarked for road projects on the Palos Verdes Peninsula during 1963-64. The expenditures are part of the new County Road Dept. budget.

Major improvements to Hawthorne Boulevard are planned during the next year.

Employers' Tax Deadline July 31

Employers deadline for reporting and paying income tax withholding and social security taxes for the calendar quarter ending June 30 is July 31, according to a statement issued by R. A. Riddell, district director of Internal Revenue in Los Angeles.

Declare Dividend

Security First National Bank's board of directors this week declared the usual quarterly dividend of 40 cents a share on its common stock, payable Aug. 5, to stockholders of record July 16.

Correspondent to Speak at LBSC

Colin Legum, African correspondent for the London Observer, will speak to an open meeting of the Southern California Political Science Assn. at Long Beach State College Wednesday, July 17.

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Crash Hurts 16-Year-Old

A 16-year-old Los Angeles youth was taken to Harbor General Hospital Sunday evening with injuries to his left ankle and right hand after his small motorbike collided with an automobile making a left turn at 208th Street and Western Avenue.

Hospitalized for observation following the accident was John Michael Reiley, who was riding a motorcycle northbound on Western Ave. Driver of the automobile was Phillip DeWayne Mote, 17, a Gardena High School student, who said he was unable to see the bike before he made the left turn onto 208th Street.

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